



Match Report

Opponent: At GWU Rugby Football Club

Date: 24 Sept 05

First Match: Navy 5 George Washington University 29

Second Match: Navy 29 George Washington University 0

The match between the Navy Midshipman and the GW Colonials was down and dirty smash-mouth rugby for first thirty minutes of the first half as each side failed to capitalize on any scoring opportunities. Ethan Berg ('09) and Andrew Cody ('09) atypically each missed kicks for points from 35 meters out in the first twenty minutes and the Colonials also failed on an attempted penalty kick. The ball was played mostly between the forwards between each side's 22. The dustbowl that was the downtown DC pitch coated the ruggers with a fine power which mixed with their own sweat creating a gritty mud from head to toe. At the thirty-minute mark the Colonials managed to slam a try across the right side of the Navy line after driving 40 meters and then kicked for the conversion. They did the same just seven minutes later. The first half also saw a surprising number of navy injuries, several contusions and one broken finger. Spirited play among the forwards dominated the second half. The Colonials' backs were itching for action, showing surprising speed and coordination as the ball was spun to the

fringes. They scored three trys in a ten-minute span but made no point after attempts. At thirty three minutes into the second half the Colonial forwards put another try in Navy's end. The score was then 29 to 0. After that try the Colonials never came within Navy's 22. With two minutes left to play the Midshipman rallied with solid ball distribution to approach the right side of the GW try line. After several hard rucks the Midshipman managed to score a try as hooker David Allen ('08) pushed across the line for five. The conversion was no good and the match ended shortly thereafter. The starting side played much harder as a team than the score would indicate. The Navy Men-of-the-Match were 8-man Steven Terjesen ('08) and hooker Allen who both ran very well and delivered consistent tackles and rucks.

The B-side game was nothing short of spectacular as the lower-side Midshipmen were anxious to exact pain and punishment on behalf of their vanquished yet valiant brethren. The same intensity that was present in the Midshipman during the first match was

once again present with the fresh and focused players. The Blue and Gold scored 29 unanswered points and never let the Colonials within 35 meters of a try. Flyhalf James Kerrigan, left wing Chase Hobby, outside center Andrew Grasso, flanker Matthew Byington, and right wing Adam Young all scored tries easily; with two of the conversions being good. The forwards were relentless on defense and quick off of the rucks and tackles to support their brothers-in-arms and the backs moved the ball man to man in seamless fashion. When the final whistle blew the Midshipman had exacted some revenge on the men from GW and gained a feeling of accomplishment and self-respect as they had played hard and played together.

~Midn 3/C Andrew Chess Reporting